

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI MI

STATE REP WAKE ISL

C G CAMP PENDLETON

C G FT CHAFFEE

ELGIN AFB FLA

INDIANTOWN GAP

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174178

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENTIANE 4921 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO UDORN
BANGKOK DTD 21 JUL 75

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4921

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL REFUGEE CENTERS IN CONUS AND GUAM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA, TH

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS
FROM REFUGEE CENTER COORDINATORS AND FROM PRIVATE
INDIVIDUALS IN US ASKING EMBASSY TO LOCATE VIETNAMESE
RELATPVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, OF PERMANENT RESIDENTS
OR OF REFUGEES ALREADY IN US FOR PURPOSE OF INSTITUTING
REFGUEE PROCEDURES FOR THESE RELATIVES. UP TO PRESENT,
IN CASES WHERE ADDRES IGIVZT WWL IN VIENTIANE AREA, WE
HAVE SENT CONSULAR ASSISTANT TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE RELA-
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TIVES AND ASK THEM TO COME INTO CONSULATE.

2. HOWEVER, IN TOWN THE SIZE OF VIENTIANE ATTEMPTS BY US CONSULAR SECTION STAFF TO CONTACT RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE ARE OF NECESSITY QUITE VISIBLE. COUNTRY TEAM HAS NOW DECIDED THAT CONSULAR SECTION SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED FURTHER IN SUCH ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE POTENTIAL REFUGEE CASES IN VIENTIANE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE RISK TO CONSULAR ASSISTANTS INVOLVED AND TO VIETNAMESE FAMILIES WE CONTACT AND ALSO BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES WITH LAO GOVERNMENT, WHICH COULD ACCUSE US OF ENCOURAGING SUCH PEOPLE TO FLEE LAOS.

3. ACTION REQUESTBI: PLEASE INFORM ALL REFUGEE CENTERS IN US AND ALL PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO MAKE SIMILAR INQUIRIES OF DEPARTMENT THAT EMBASSY VIENTIANE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO SEARCH FOR RELATIVES IN LAOS FOR POSSIBLE PROCESSING AS REFUGEES. INSTEAD, PRINCIPALS IN US SHOULD WRITE FAMILIES DIRECTLY OR THROUGH FRIENDS AND ADVISE RELATIVES TO SEE UE CONSUL IN VIENTIANE OR, IF THEY PREFER, IN UDORN, THAILAND. FAMILIES CAN THEN DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WISH TO VISIT CONSULAR SECTION. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR TO INQUIRERS IN US THAT EMBASSY CANNOT ASSIST VIETNAMESE NATIONALS IN LEAVING LAOS; SUCH MUST MANAGE MATTER OF EXIT DOCUMENTS OR PROCEDURES ON THEIR OWN. (THIS LATTER REQUEST PROMPTED BY FREQUENT REFERENCES IN IATF AND PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS TO A SUPPOSED EMBASSY "EVACUATION PROGRAM" FOR VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS OF LAOS.)
CHAPMAN UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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